THE RARS -EXCITER-

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
RARS
WORLDWIDE FRIENDSHIP

CLUB CALL: W4DW

REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

JUNE 1985

ISSUE 183

LEADING EDGE

SHERMAN STARNES
W4TZU

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The theme of the next teleconference net for the evening of June 14, will be AMSAT. A number of AMSAT officials will address almost every facet of amateur radio satellites in the session scheduled for 90 minutes. The conference will be carried by almost 250 repeaters. Here in the Triangle we usually hear the net on 146.88. Satellites are generally considered to be in the forefront in amateur radio, but the net itself is a technological achievement. The speakers will be scattered across the country from Silver Spring, MD., to Detroit, to Boulder, CO., to Los Angeles. As many as 50,000 listeners are expected.

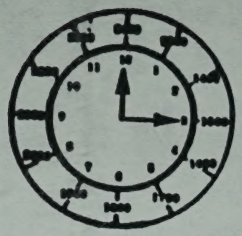
Enhanced printed communications in the form of AMTOR and packet radio are enjoying a surge of interest in amateur radio. As of May 18, there were at least a half dozen new packet radio operators in the greater Raleigh area. In spite of these activities, I am convinced that most amateurs prefer the spoken word. A relatively new voice mode known as Amplitude Companded SSB is just now being introduced to the ham bands. It won't improve signals that are too weak to copy in the first place, but it will provide dramatic improvement in signal-to-noise performance. Received signals which are 8 to 12 dB above the noise will improve by as much as 15 dB and an 18 dB signal (about S3) will just about quiet the noise. These figures are realized when the signal is processed at the transmitter and at the receiver.

In the ACSSB transmitter the signal undergoes compression and equalization. At the receiver it is de-equalized and expanded.

Printed circuit boards for adapting existing equipment to ACSSB are available from Project OSCAR. For transceivers a board is available with transmit and receive processing. Separate boards are also available for separate transmitters and receivers. These boards provide what is referred to as level 1 operation. A further enhancement which will be added later incorporates a pilot tone at the transmitter which the receiver uses for AGC. In satellite operation the pilot tone can also be used to automatically compensate for doppler shift.

Jeannine Duane, WB2MBW, is among the 118 semifinalists remaining from which the first teacher to ride the Space Shuttle is to be selected.

EDITOR: ANN M. BRADLEY, WA4APK - 5207 DENISE DRIVE - RALEIGH, NC 27606 - (919) 851-2437



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular RARS meeting was held May 1, 1985 at 116 S. Salisbury St., Raleigh. President Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and guests in attendance.

Bruce presented a summary of the actions taken on behalf of the Society at the previous Board of Directors/ Executive Committee meeting. Of particular interest to the General Membership were the interim report of the Hamfest Chairman, WA4AOO; the Quarterly Financial Report from Treasurer KN4G; a repeater maintenance expense item; and the donation of a set of ARRL publications to the Six Forks Library.

Wake County EC, WB4YQA, reminded members of the upcoming exercise on May 17 & 18; a motion to rescind the authorization to amend the current year's budget, granted to the Board of Directors at the Regular February meeting (held on January 31) in favor of a motion to increase Hamfest Expenditures and Hamfest Revenues both by an amount of $3500, was passed unanimously.

Bruce read a letter to RARS from the Roanoke Division Director, W4UG, comending the Society for its Hamfest and expressing his appreciation to WB4ZSM and WA4APK for their help at the League Booth. The members were reminded of the upcoming Field Day, June 22 & 23, K4GHJ and K1PLR co-chair; briefed on recent actions concerning the CP&L RFI problem; reminded of LPM-'85, May 11 & 12 and upgrade test session May 18.

There being no further business to be addressed, Bruce introduced the program speaker, Jim Hope, K8YTE, who delivered a most informative program on Packet Radio. Following the program, the meeting was adjourned and followed by a coffee social with good fellowship.

Respectfully submitted by:

Bruce A Eggers, WA9NEW, in the temporary absence of Secretary W3EZR.

* * NORTH AMERICAN TELECONFERENCE * *
* * * RADIO NETWORK, JUNE 14 * * *
* * * * AMATEUR RADIO IN * * * *
* * * * SPACE - 1985 * * * *

AMSAT's top people will be heard locally on the K4ITL 28/88 machine at 9PM, Friday, June 14th. Don't miss it!

(Now, the question is: Will W4DW or WB4TOP be heard on OSCAR 10 during Field Day?)

wa9new

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Mark your calendar! It'll be early in December, probably a Friday or Saturday evening. Pete and Sally, WA2BIN and KB4MEA, have already volunteered their services as hosts of this year's RARS Christmas Party.

HELP WANTED

BY-LAWS Review Committee Chair: Mold the RARS of the future. Apply WA9NEW

FIELD-DAY Operators: No experience required. Apply K4GHJ/K1PLR.

STATE-FAIR ARC Communications: Help the Red Cross help the people. No experience required. Apply WB4MCE

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'NEW LINE

by Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW
President, RARS

? ? WHERE HAVE WE BEEN AND ? ?
? ? WHERE ARE WE GOING ? ?

It's been a little over a year since you asked that I serve as president of RARS for a two-year term. I started the 'NEW-LINE column with a review of where RARS had been since its start and raised the question of just where were we headed. You will recall that we started out like the proverbial house afire. RARS enjoyed dynamic leadership in its early days and a dedicated, if small, membership. RARS hosted both Division and State Conventions and sponsored the State QSO Party. There are other examples of RARS' high level of activity and involvement. Some waned, others grew.

I speculated, in one of those columns last year, that many clubs experience a cyclic phenomena during their history. Some are more clearly defined than others. But the cyclic order is there. The period is probably on the order of ten years but with a much greater variability than even the reknowned 11 year period of the sunspots. So where are we now, one year later?

Membership is up. Novice and Upgrade Class participation is up over recent years. 'One Giant Step for RARS', moving the Hamfest indoors, is behind us and proven highly successful. We've hosted our second League Planning Meeting. We've continued to take part in a wide variety of Publicity/Public Relations events. And, not to be overlooked, (remember Part 97.1(a)?) RARS members and the Society continues to support, and seek out new ways to provide, public service communications. So where are we going?

How about the VE program? Will RARS have monthly ARRL (or WCARS) upgrade exams? What's happened to the Club Station at the American Red Cross Building? Can we attain staus as a charitable/educational organization under the laws of North Carolina, making donations to RARS tax deductible and saving us money on our mailing permit? What happened to dues reduction and Life Membership? Why do we have a membership roll of only about 100 when there are several times that many licensed Amateurs in our coverage area? And what about any other question you may have about where RARS is going?

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU. YOU are RARS. YOU are what makes this Society what it is. YOU are the determining force that directs the direction!

We faced a lean year when your Board of Directors recommended, and YOU approved, moving the RARS Hamfest indoors this past year. A lot of plans, plans which cost money, were put on the back-burner until we saw how the Hamfest worked out. Well, friends and neighbors, I'm here to tell you that the Hamfest worked out GREAT! You've got YOU to thank for that (albeit somewhat assisted by WA$(4)AOO and his hardy band of helpers). So now we're ready to roll! The By-Laws Review Committee has already passed a recommendation to lower dues and establish a Life Member catagory, revise the Constitution so that we can be reclassified. Our current Treasurer, KN4G, has a host of ideas that he'd like to see incorporated into our By-Laws to assure YOUR protection in our financial transactions.

Your Board has already approved a membership drive to increase the support base and the participation base from the vast masses in the coverage area.

Now what we need is increased involvement on the part of current membership. Give me a call! We've got openings! Get involved!

BERT'S BEAT

WITH
BERT BAILEY, W4FMN

The participants in the CW contest at the RARS Hamfest held in the Jim Graham Bldg. at the NC Fairgrounds at 1100 hours on Sun. 14 April 85, battled CW from 15 wpm thru 35 wpm in 5 wpm increments. The last three contestants survived in the 35 wpm plateau. Results were as follows:

First Place ($10 Prize Money)
Fran Dickerson, KA2DJY, Havelock
(Despite the 2 call, a Tarheel)
Second Place ($5 Prize Money)
Bill Parker, NG4W, Rocky Mount
Third Place, Bob Corns, K4MC, Raleigh
Fourth Place, Bill Kelchner, KU4W, Fayetteville

Considerable aid was provided by the Wake Tech ARC whose volunteers helped to grade papers in the contest. After the meager turnout of previous years, this year's attendance was most gratifying. Next year, perhaps even more CW artists will pound brass to claim top fist of North Carolina. There is not much doubt that CW is not yet dead, at least not in the Old North State, the home of the world's champion, McElroy.

A busy day for the conductor of the CW contest, W4FMN. Immediately after the end of the dahdits, he raced out of the Graham Building along with Mike, WD4LXR who herded radio ops for the OTHER contest--the Sir Walter Raleigh Road Race, that is, to--run the 10K for the 7th consecutive year. At 63, with no age group above 50, ole Bert got no hardware or even honorable mention BUT he did appear on the front page of the local rag, with 3000 others at the start of the race, AND his twisted visage appeared three times(!) on Channel 5 that night. Now, next year, a better CW contest and, please, no 10K on the same day, I hope.
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RARS AT THE RACES---AGAIN

This time, it was the SE Masters held in Raleigh, the 15th International such meeting. Master, by the way, connotes those of us over 40, and many competing are considerably older. You think you can run? Come out and race with Ed Benham who runs a 3hr, 45 min. marathon, a 42 min. 10K and such. If you do beat him, congratulate yourself. You just beat a man 77 years old!! Begin to get the idea of these games that our local rag all but ignores year after year. One man I beat in the 5K turned out had finished 27th of 89 in the 1936 Olmpics, running for China. Time marches on. Now let's see, where were we? Yes, back to the ether. Ole reliable Bill was at the helm, next to the Red Cross truck at the finish line near Mission Valley Inn. That is, WB4CCA QSOed wid John (of the Wake Tech ARC) KB4DGJ at Mile 2, Ben W4AFO at Mile 4, Bill, WB4EOV at Mile 7, doubling back to 20 after the first pass, Mike WD4LXR at Miles 10 and 23 and then a newcomer, Paul, N4LQR at Miles 12 and 25. These ops monitored both the marathon and the half-marathon, observing much character, misery and triumph in the process. Thanks to the ubiquitous Lou Little of Red Cross Commo Exercise fame, each got a souvenier tape and pin for their stellar efforts. And where was ole Bert, W4FMN??? Well, he ran in the 4 x 400 relay on Friday, picking up a GOLD for winning on the State Govt. Employees team, beating out the RTP lads by quite a mile and on the next day, he grabbed a silver. Listening to many experts, he, for once renounced his macho hangup and paid attention. The advice was--when with a bad cold (which W4FMN did have), knock off running races. A possible win today could mean loss of many workdays next week. So, for once, 63 yr. old Bert, heeded sound advice and copped out of Sunday's half-marathon. Instead, he went out and harrassed the troops, ops that is. Couldn't have handled a mike with that gravelly AM. One of the distinct highlights of the whole morn, besides the expertise displayed by all ops so well led by WB4CCA, was the appearance of new blood, ole Paul, N4LQR. He did outstanding for his first fray. He, like, old ECs, cannot understand how so few of the RARS membership does all the work. He says he used to monitor the ham bands before he was licensed (did not query what equipment he used) and noted the many occasions when RARS workers had such a hard time getting any but a minute few to do any work. Paul, try ECing. It builds CHARACTER. Now, let's see, when's the next race?--On 22 June. Anybody not working FD this year, please consider working this truly FB 5K, Run for the Oaks. And that's 30 for tonite**********

LPM '85

or
What Happened In Apex ?

There's a perceived need for this article. Although RARS, with the support of the Cary club, hosted the event, very few of either club participated.

What happens at a Leaguge Planning Meeting? The dedicated few within the Roanoke Division gather to provide an avenue for crossfeed and insight, direction and the ever necessary understanding of the other's perspective, as to where the ARRL, and with it the Amateur Radio Service, as it exists, is and should go.

You can't summarize a full weekend's activities in a few lines. I won't try. Just a few 'teasers'. What do you think about granting Novices phone priveleges on 160 and the 220 MHz band? Has the ARRL, in its attempts to support the public service purpose of the Amateur Service, entered in to more Memorandums of Understanding with various federal and national charitable organizations than local Amateurs can support? Should the ARRL President receive a salary? Should contacts on the 10 MHz band qualify for ARRL awards? How about contacts on the two new bands? Should the ARRL encourage or seek ways to minimize the number of contests which are run on a seemingly non-ending basis? Who are YOUR representatives to the Advisory Committees already established to provide insight to the Board? And one that REALLY grabbed me, should the Board dis-establish the Emergency Communications Advisory Committee?

Well, if you weren't there, you don't know what we proposed. So I guess you'll just have to live with the results, whatever they may be.

But ypu might start planning for LPM-86. It'll be held in Greenville, SC, probably in June, '86. See you there?

wa9new

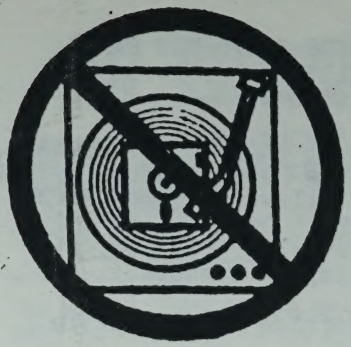
"YOU CAN TAKE IT TO THE BANK"
(But will they buy it?)
wa9new

The N&O ran it on page 14, Sunday, the 19th. The Senate-passed budget calls for "Outlays, $965 billion; revenue, $793.6 billion; deficit, $171.4 billion; DEFICIT CUT: $56 BILLION". (Emphasis added.)

The House version varies little.

Now I want to know how I can reduce my debt by spending more than I make!

The only thing I've ever heard a politician say that I could believe was, "I want your vote"!



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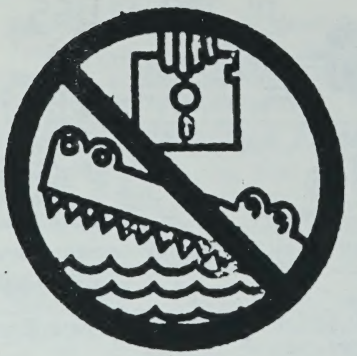
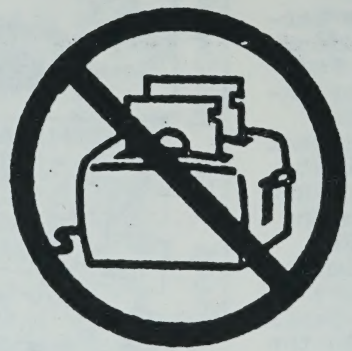

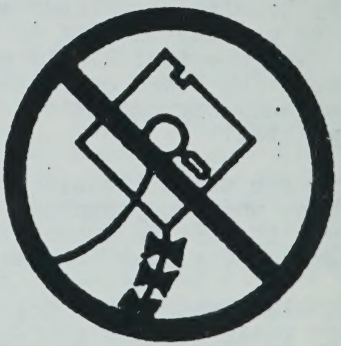

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INVENTING STANDARD TIME
continued

W.F. Allen and the Time Conventions

Railroad managers responded to the steadily increasing rail traffic by building the most meticulouslyu organized industry in the history of American commerce. Managers of competing lines formed associations and cooperated regulary to construct an interconnected transportation network.

Such a network required the develpment of standardized equipment and uniform operating procedures. By the 1890s American railroads had a standard track guage, standard equipment, such as automatic couplers, air brakes, and signals, and even uniform accounting methods. Their most revolutionary cooperative venture was standard time.

Begining in 1872 railroad managers met twice yearly to coordinate their timetables. Out of these meetings grew two organizations, the General Time Convention and the Southern Railroad Time Convention.

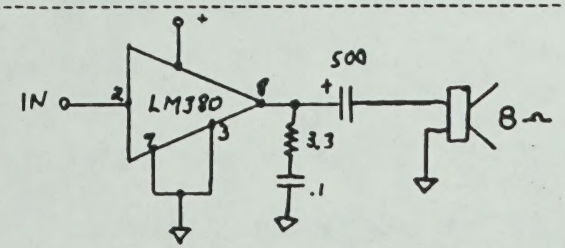
On October 13, 1881, prompted by cogent letters from Cleveland Abbe and other scientists, the General Time Convention gave its secretary, W. F. Allen, the task of investigating a standard for railway time.

Allen reported to the General Time Convention in St. Loius on April 11, 1883, and they immediately adopted his plan. The endorsement of the Southern Railway Time Convention followed within days. During the summer of that year, in a vigorous campaign to gain support from railroad lines and the general public, Allen enlisted an army of unpaid publicists from the railroads and scientific organizations. Through private conversations, public lectures, and voluminous correspondence, Allen and his helpers persuaded business men, journalists, politicians, and average citizens to support the new system.

to be continued....

UNIVERSAL AUDIO AMPLIFIER----------

Here is a neat little amplifier that will serve many purposes around the shack. It only requires a ½ watt drive for about 2 watts out. It will operate from 9 to 15 volts and can be built up on a Radio Shack Universal P.C. socket board. The whole thing only requires 4 parts. Most of them are available in any good junk box. Thanks to Marissa ARC Harmonics.



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RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 at First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Salisbury Street

Calendar

June 1 - Cutoff date for Greensboro Amateur Exams, June 15

June 5 - Regular RARS Meeting

June 8, 9 - World Wide S. America Contest, CW

June 10 - RARS Exciter copy deadline

June 12 - Teleconference Radio Net K4ITL Rptr. 148.88 Mhz Subj: Oscar Satallite Comm.

June 19 - RARS Advisory Bd Mtg. 7:30, NCSU Faculty Club

June 22, 23 - ARRL Annual Field Day Exercise, NCSU Faculty Club

July 6, 7 - Atlanta, Ga. Hamfest

July 20 - Cutoff date for Amateur Exams, Raleigh, August 3

July 20 - Cary, NC Swapfest, 9am-3pm Lions Club Shelter, Cary